DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 445 948 SO 030 847

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TITLE	A Personal Vision of a Good Social Studies Student.
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	7p.
PUB TYPE	Opinion Papers (120)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Educational Objectives; *Interpersonal Competence; School Culture; Secondary Education; *Social Studies; *Student Characteristics; *Student Development
IDENTIFIERS	Social Participation

ABSTRACT

A good student in a social studies classroom is one who thinks seriously about his/her work and seeks to find the reason behind the understanding of certain tasks. The student should aim at developing a wide range of skills to enable him/her to participate in discussions and make competent decisions. Educational programs should present various subjects and adopt an interdisciplinary approach to learning. The decisions that the student makes in society later in life will be complex and require different approaches. A good student should accept responsibility to participate fully in the school community and take part in activities that promote the welfare of others. A good student in a social studies classroom should be open-minded, inquisitive, creative, and respectful. The student should be able to challenge practices that contradict the principles of democracy. In the school community, the student should be able to develop interests in extracurricular activities that will foster the sense of cooperation. The student will then be developed mentally, physically, and socially, which is the ultimate goal of education. (Contains 3 references.) (BT)

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A Personal Vision of a good social studies student.

A democratic society is that which offers adequate and equal rights to all. In this case, the school will be available to all students and cater to their needs according to their capabilities. It should provide an atmosphere that is conducive for the students to offer ideas and develop understanding, skills, and tolerance towards others. Education develops characteristics that will continue to foster democracy in a society. I shall discuss the expectations of a good student in social studies classroom, school, community, and in the society.

A good student in a social studies classroom is one who thinks seriously about his/her work and seeks to understand the reason behind the understanding of certain tasks. He should be able to seek explanations from the teacher by enquiring about problems that he/she does not understand before he/she sets out to do them. The students should do this with respect for the teacher and with the proper motive and spirit of understanding for the sake of doing the right thing.

The student is to aim at developing a wide range of skills to enable him/her to participate in discussions and make competent decisions. Educational programs should present various subjects and adopt an interdisciplinary approach to learning. The decisions that the student makes in society later in life will be complex and require different approaches. For example, if society intends to establish a vegetable project, it will need knowledge of geography to establish whether the location is climatically suitable; economic information to evaluate the viability of the project by applying cost-benefit analysis; and agricultural data for proper seed selection, fertilizer use, etc. The author concurs with Hunt and Colander (1998), who alluded to the fact that societal

community.

A good student should accept responsibility in order to participate fully in the school community. The student should develop a sense of self-respect and self-discipline which make others to respect him or her. The school rules should be maintained for smooth functioning of the school, for no institution can operate without rules. The student's participation in the school community with peers and teachers will help him learn to work with others in society.

A good student should take part in activities that promote the welfare of others. For example, voluntary work such as freedom from hunger walk. To exercise initiative in the society, the student should guide others' efforts towards developing resources for the common good. He/she should work towards the improvement and development of society by applying the skills learned in school. Participate in public life, for example voting, as a right for all citizens of the right voting age. The students' ultimate aim should be working towards changing society for better by being a productive member and bringing about growth and development.

A good social studies student in a social studies classroom should be open-minded, inquisitive, creative, and respectful. He/she should be able to work for the betterment of his society by sharing his/her knowledge and time. The student should have courage to question authority and think for himself, then he will gain attitudes and skills useful for helping people to meet their biggest needs. For example, food, shelter and clothing. Finally, the student should be able to build confidence in his/her capacity to observe, criticize, analyze and figure things out for him/herself. In this way he/she should discover that he/she is as good as his teachers and others. Learning to cooperate, rather than compete in order to gain approval. Hence, the social studies student will learn to consider the whole social context of his/her people's needs and to look for imaginative and courageous ways of meeting them.

problems are becoming increasingly complex and need a group of social scientists with different specialities to work together in order to address a situation as described earlier on.

The student will be expected to cooperate with other students in class, participate frankly in group discussions by developing the art of listening, respecting, and integrating the opinions of others. While the student may not always agree with differing opinions, he/she must learn tolerance which is a principle of democracy (Turner, 1998; Rogers, 1983).

The student should be able to challenge practices that contradict the principles of democracy. For example, if he/she is told to memorize a piece of work without clear explanation he/she should try to use reason and intelligently seek explanation instead of following instructions blindly. The student should not conform to win favor with other students and teachers, but should speak out for what he believes is right. The student will not learn if he has not made sense of what he/she is doing and, therefore, needs to speak out. The student should be valued as a resource person and partner in the learning/teaching process. In this way, he should get psychological, social, and academic satisfaction.

The student should plan beyond the classroom into the future and develop career goals. He should use every opportunity in the classroom to be creative and experiment with ideas in the process of learning. A good student should accept failure and be ready to learn from mistakes by putting talents into practice.

In the school community, the student should be able to develop interest in extracurricular activities, for example participate in ball games, sports etc, that will further foster the sense of cooperation. The student then will be developed mentally, physically, and socially which is the ultimate goal of education. By planning activities together with others, the students should be able to offer honest ideas that will improve his/her social skills and the well being of the school

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